

SAN JUAN FIRE DISTRICT NO. 3
San Juan County, Washington
January 1, 1992 Through December 31, 1994

Schedule Of Findings

1. San Juan Fire District No. 3 Should Refrain From Retroactive Increases In Compensation

San Juan Fire District No. 3 increased one of its aid chief's pay in June 1993. The district increased the pay from \$812.50 per month to \$1,500 per month retroactive to January 1, 1993. According to district officials, the aid chief had been working full-time hours while the district was only paying compensation based on part-time hours. The retroactive portion of the raise in compensation totaled \$4,125.

Washington State Constitution, Article II, Section 25 states in part:

The legislature shall never grant any extra compensation to any public officer, agent, employee, servant, or contractor, after the services shall have been rendered, or the contract entered into

Washington courts, in interpreting this provision, have held the prohibition applicable to municipal corporations.

By allowing the increase in the aid chief's pay to be retroactive, the district has granted extra compensation for services already rendered.

Apparently, the district was unaware of the constitutional limitation noted above. Additionally, the district felt the aid chief was putting in extra time for which he was not getting fair compensation.

We recommend the district refrain from retroactive increases in compensation.